



Pretty Sunset at TF3IRA

## CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

## CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028,  
10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028,  
50.098

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## President's Message

Where does the time go? It seems like I just started typing 2016 and soon I'll have to start



typing 2017. And, now that I've gotten used to sending "age is 69" I'll have to start sending "age is 70."

I have been a ham, now, for over 58 years. I can remember my Novice days in

1958/1959. It was truly the blind leading the blind, then. With crystal frequency control, the odds of being on someone's frequency who was calling "CQ" were quite low. So, when you answered a CQ, you sent that person's call several times before sending your own. You had to give them time to turn the big dial and find you.

My Novice buddies and I were all working toward the same goal – getting to 13 WPM and passing the General written test. In those days, you actually had to draw schematics. Nearly everyone was anxious to get that General ticket and put that key in a drawer and break out the microphone. But it didn't take me long to figure out that with a Viking Adventurer running maybe 30 watts out (on a good day), even with plate modulation, my odds of being heard were not very high. So I found myself rummaging through the drawer and reconnecting that J-38 ... and I never looked back.

From 1958 through 1970, I probably made 99.9% of my QSOs on CW and the rest on AM. Then in 1970 I finally bought my second rig – a Heath HW-100. Wow! I could now run serious power (125 watts input) and even try SSB for the first time. Again, it did not take me very long to find that, as before, I much preferred operating CW. And so it remains to this day. I'm not doctrinaire about it. I do have an electret mic on my Yamaha CM-500 headset ... but it is usually tucked away near the headband.

Looking back over the ensuing 58 years, ham radio has gone through so many changes. When I first started, the standard was “separates.” You had a receiver, and a separate transmitter. But Collins, and later Heathkit, made transceivers all the rage. AM phone quickly gave way to SSB phone but CW more or less stayed CW. You heard an increasing number of electronic keyers, but you still heard hand keys and bugs. And today, you still do.

Take a look at the sensitivities of today's gear versus receivers and transceivers of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Our receivers hear much better so high power is less significant in making and holding QSOs. Yet so many of us have “big iron.” Back in the days, RTTY was done by a relatively few of us. RTTY systems had big electro-mechanical terminals and with tube-type stability challenges, it was tough to find others and to exchange messages free of lots of erroneous characters. Now, RTTY has become mainstream.

For those of us who fondly remember the bands in the 1950s and 1960s, there always seemed to be a lot of conversational QSOs taking place. Today, not so much. Before the advent of 2 meter repeaters, chasing DX meant listening for them. Pile ups were more rare. Today, many hams never turn on a radio until they spot a needed country/band/mode combination on a DX spotting network. Then they switch on, try to work the DX, and switch off again.

Look at what computers have done to contesting. Remember those gnarly dupe sheets we had to fill out when we submitted our hand-written SS CW logs? That's all history now. I dare say, someone who had a Novice back in 1958 and quit ham radio soon after would be hard pressed to see any similarities in today's gear and operations ... until they hear that plaintive “CQ” on CW. We will probably be saying the same things about driving once auto-driving vehicles become mainstream, too. “I can still remember when you actually had to accelerate, brake, and steer one of these things.”

73,

**Rob** K6RB

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## From the [Editor](#)



### Contest Season!

CWops is not a contest club, but many of our members enjoy contesting. Contests happen all the time, but some of the majors occur from November through March, so we often refer to this as Contest Season. And many of those contests are on CW, providing excellent opportunities to practice, to hone our Morse skills, and to use those skills in pursuit of a favorite pastime. Joe W5ASP lists some of the big contests, and some of the smaller ones, too, in the [Operating Events](#) column each month. Even if you're not a contester, consider getting on, even if it's for just a little while, to give a few points to your more competitively-inclined colleagues. Who knows, you might start to like it!

When I was a young ham with limited skills and antennas, the ARRL November Sweepstakes CW was one of my favorites. It is limited to the US and Canada, a mere 3000 mile expanse, so success depends less on pulling out the weak ones than it does in a world-wide DX contest. In fact, it was a SS, I believe in 1962, that boosted my code speed from barely General-class (13 WPM) to 25 or more in the course of one contest. We learn a lot faster when we're young, eh?! It was the beginning of the end of any enthusiasm I might have had for phone operating.

This year's SS CW is history and it looks like CWops members K5GA (#3), K5OT (#4), and KL9A (#8) are currently in the Single Op Unassisted High Power Top Ten, pending arrival of more scores to the unofficial 3830 Claimed Scores reporting page or any "stealth" entries sent quietly to the official ARRL scores robot. Only 11% separates the ten highest scores in this highly competitive category! Members NP3A, WJ9B, K0AV, K4XU, K2PO, W1NN, and K0AD look to line up in order in positions 4-10 in the Single Op Unassisted Low Power category. We're visible in the Single Op QRP category, too, with W2GD looking like the winner, followed by K4QPL (#5), WF7T (#6), and N0UR (#7). Single Op Unlimited (assisted by spotting networks) HP winners include K0EU on top, with K6LL (#3), K9CT (#4), VE7CC (#6), and N4QS (#7). It looks like N4ZZ will win the Single Op Unlimited LP category, followed by K0VBU (#5), N3HEE (#6), and K2YWE (#7). Of course, this is all subject to adjudication and final scoring, and some finishing positions may shift around, but these are all outstanding efforts. Way to go, guys!

As for your editor, well, SS is no longer a favorite. The long Sunday afternoon begging for a few more Qs in a huge field of stations you have already worked just doesn't do it for me any more. I had considered an "SO2S1C" entry – Single Operator/Two Stations/One Chair, using remote operation for one half of the contest and then starting over locally with another call sign for the other half. This ensures decent rate from start to finish and enables a higher total score. But it wasn't a focus event for my contest club and I got off to such a poor start on Saturday afternoon that I decided to make it a multi-activity weekend, with ham radio giving way to sports on TV, a bike ride, some chores, and other pursuits. I got on the air now and then and, after five or six hours total, realized that I had all but one multiplier. That meant I had a goal, so I spent another four hours looking in vain for Eastern Washington. Signals were great from all the neighboring sections, WWA, ID, OR, BC, and AB, and they were answering my CQs readily. I was operating Assisted and the spotting networks were active. But EWA still eluded me. I finally gave up when the pops and crackles on my remote link became intolerable shortly before the end of the event, short of my impromptu goal and no more in love with SS than before. I do admire the *sitzfleisch* of the winners mentioned above – they're truly devoted!

## Corrections:

In the October issue, we neglected to update a date reference in the QTX column. “Below find the June QTX reports received” should have read “...September...” but you probably figured that out!

Enjoy this November issue and, as usual, keep those articles and columns coming and don't forget to tell me what you want to read in *Solid Copy*.

73,

**Rick** N6XI

Editor

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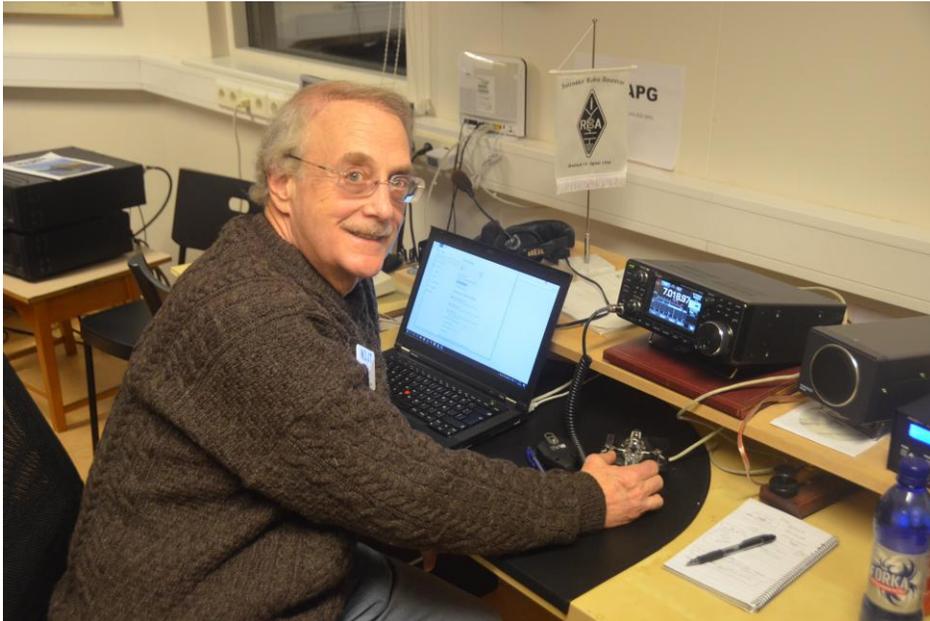
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## News & Notes

### [Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

*This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at [jweisskohl@gmail.com](mailto:jweisskohl@gmail.com).*

**Jim, N3JT:** Jim and Nina are headed back to Florida for the winter, where Jim will again use his Virginia station remotely in addition to having access to a vertical antenna in Boynton Beach (see [qrz.com](http://qrz.com)). Jim notes that if nobody is around he can always work himself between Virginia and Florida! Here is an earlier photo of Jim in the shack of TF3IRA:



And here is a very pretty outside view of TF3IRA:



**Skip, K6DGW**: I just received my new N3ZN-SL single-lever paddle. Its mission is to improve my sending speed (and quality) and it appears it's going to be Mission Accomplished. Old injuries, a genetic condition thanks to my poor choice of Dad, and an accumulation of birthdays were collectively reducing my finger dexterity, and it finally fell below 25 WPM.

I have never joined the "Church of the Iambic," so the switch to single-lever is no big deal, but all the extra dits and occasional dahs from the two paddles are gone now and 30 WPM is again feasible.

I'm left-handed, but I was taught to send Morse right-handed by a left-handed Elmer so I could both send and write in my log ... a lost art now. The single-lever works either left or right for me and seems like a very good solution to an incurable problem.

The paddle is a work of art. The very fine-threaded adjustment screws are also a boon to fingers that don't move well, and Tony is really easy to work with. (No fiduciary connection with Tony, blah blah, and all that usual disclaimer)

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# N4FP Visits N3JT

by **Wayne Brown N4FP**



I was in Arlington, VA for a Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) conference and realized we were seven miles from N3JT's QTH. I gave Jim a landline call and he invited me by for an eyeball. It was nice to see Jim again, and his shack. For those of you who have never visited his shack, it is an absolute marvel of intricate electronic wiring between his many pieces of ham gear, representing years of accumulating equipment and never removing anything previously installed! Those of you who have seen it know exactly what I mean. The best part is he always has a great signal, and has earned many awards. Jim demonstrated how he connects to his station remotely via the Internet from his snowbird location in Florida.

Also attending the MOAA conference was Keith Beebe W3KB. Keith, my XYL Marty WB2VYK, CW Op #1644, and I had a great time chatting about ham radio, particularly CWops.

During our return I operated the 1300Z CWT mobile while Marty was driving south on I-95 in South Carolina, then the 1900 session on US 301 south of I-10 in Florida. Appropriately, I worked N3JT during both sessions. The rig was the old Kenwood TS-440SAT that we purchased new 29 years ago, and Hustler antennas horizontally

mounted atop a mag-mounted three foot mast.

Below is a selfie of Jim and me in his shack. Above is a picture of our mobile auto.



73,

**Wayne** N4FP, CWops #1090

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# Activating Quarry Island OK028L

by Gary Stone N5PHT, CWops #1489

## USA Islands

The USA Islands program is found at <http://usislands.org/> and it is not associated with the IOTA program but rather for Islands found within Lakes or Rivers. I also activated one other USA Island (Rattlesnake Island in Texas) many years ago and have operated also from Goose Island in the Gulf of Texas.

## USAI Rules

In simple terms, a USAI entity has to be an island with a known name and certain sizes. For the purist, note that the USAI rules state, “Bridges and narrow causeways linking the island to the mainland or other islands are acceptable.” This allowed me to use the motor home for RV camping on Quarry Island – I am no longer agile enough to do the boat thing and carry equipment to a remote island! I did use the generator for power for a few of the contacts during a power outage, but that is another story. Look up the referenced Web page if interested and maybe you, too, can activate a new island.

## Quarry Island

As I said, there is a short causeway and Quarry Island is part of Lake Wister State Park. We have actually avoided this park in the past as it is in need of a lot of upgrading. But with the lure of activating a new USAI island, I felt it would be acceptable for a few days and the XYL threw in her blessing to sweeten the deal. She likes to sit and read when we camp and draw and work on some woodwork projects and she is super supportive of my sometimes crazy hobby. Actually, she enjoyed our time on the island very much and did not want to leave.

I proposed the island to the USAI QM (Qualification Manager). He looked it over on Google and agreed it qualified and assigned an initial number of OK028. The “L” designation at the end is for “Lake” and does not get affixed until the island has been “activated.” Anyone could have activated the Island, but since I was planning to head there the next day I made it first!

Quarry Island is near the Eastern Oklahoma town of Wister and was an easy 100 mile drive from our previous location in Arkansas – and directly on our way home to North Texas. I was unable to locate information or history of the island but given the name and the presence of some large stones (pun not intended) laying around, one can only assume some quarry work happened in the past. But I am not certain. A Google view shows the small causeway that appears to have been added when the original lake was formed by the dam. Google Measure shows the island to be a little over half a mile long and about 700 feet at the widest point. The island is part of the Oklahoma State Park system and has seven RV sites and a dozen or more tent sites.



### Ham Station

I use a Kenwood TS590S and run 100 watts as I don't carry an amplifier. I carry a few different antennas but my favorite is the full size G5RV. As you can see in the picture I had plenty of room here to erect the full size antenna. The trusty ol' sling shot worked well and I got the antenna hoisted up to about 35 feet at the apex. This was a CW only operation so my Bencher paddle got the job done. I have no computer control of the rig when traveling or at home.



## Radio Contacts

To “officially activate” the rules are simple: Make at least 25 contacts from the Island including at least two DXCC entities. Well, thanks to CW friends that initial activation took 34 minutes! And it was a hoot. As K3WW pointed out in an email, I even had a little pileup going for awhile!

We camped on the island three days and this activation resulted in some nice walks, afternoon naps, a wonderful meal at the Southern Belle in Heavener, beautiful sunsets, sunrises and, oh yes, I was here for ham radio so it included some contacts: CW Only operation from 18-20 October 2016. I logged over 300 contacts with all continents, 16 DXCC entities and 35 US States.

As Jim, N3JT says of me, what tree will I be hiding behind next?

73,

*Gary, N5PHT*

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## Sleuthing the Hum

by [Rob Brownstein K6RB](#)



Back in 1995 I had acquired a Globe King 500 and shortly after a Collins 75A-4. Both needed lots of work to bring them back to life, but this would become my vintage station of choice despite having five others all sharing my then antenna system. Some years later, though, I found that when this station was plugged in and power was off, there was a low-level 60 Hz hum in my two K3 radios. Removing the power strip plug to the vintage station made the hum go away.

I was not sure which piece of gear was causing my hum problem. Was it the A-4, the Globe King, the Eico 717 keyer, the Globe 755 VFO? But since it was easy to eliminate it by simply pulling the power-strip plug, I procrastinated in seeking and fixing whatever was amiss.

A few weeks ago I decided to give myself an early 70<sup>th</sup> birthday present. I unhooked the ‘A4, packed it up nice and secure, and shipped it to Howard W3HM, well known for his excellent cosmetic and electrical restorations of Collins receivers. Now

that the vintage station was temporarily QRT, I decided to remove the three modules (power supply, modulator, RF deck) from the Globe King rack and put heavy duty casters on the bottom of the rack to allow me to more easily move it around.



With the units removed, I also decided to see why the Globe King was causing the hum, because with the 'A4 gone, the Eico and Globe VFO unplugged, and only the Globe King still connected to the AC line, I was still getting the hum. So, first clue – it's the Globe King.

For those unfamiliar with Globe King 500, 500B and 500C (I assume most of you), it comprises three modules – an RF deck, a modulator, and a main power supply. Each is separately mounted in the rack, and the three are then interconnected by two cables. One cable, the power umbilical, routes filament, plate and some switched AC lines among the three units. The other, the PTT umbilical, provides push-to-talk controls between the modulator and the power supply when operating AM phone.

### **Preliminary Investigation**

My first detective work was to lay the now removed modules on their sides in the same juxtapositions as when inside the cabinet. That allowed me to reattach the two umbilical cables. Next, I measured resistance between the two AC plug blades and chassis ground with the power switch in the off position. Bingo. One AC line was making to chassis

ground with a resistance of less than one ohm. When I removed the power umbilical from all the units, the resistance to chassis ground went up to megohms. When I put the power umbilical back in place but left the PTT umbilical unconnected, the resistance was still good (e.g. very high). But, when I put the PTT umbilical in place, I read a short to ground, again.

Leaving the PTT in place and removing the power umbilical also allowed the resistance to be high (good). So, somehow, it was an interaction between both umbilicals that was causing this situation.

### **RF Deck**

## Further Sleuthing

When all else fails, look at the schematics. So I did. The power umbilical provided switched AC power to each module, all of which had relays and transformers. It also provided a common ground line. The PTT umbilical routed a low voltage relay coil voltage from power supply to PTT relay in the modular module. There was absolutely no path to ground intended.

With the PTT umbilical removed, I measured the two pins to ground on the power supply and the modulator modules. All looked good on the power supply connector, but I noted an essentially zero resistance path from one pin on the modulator deck to its chassis.

## Some Insight

Working my way through the logic, if one pin on the modulator deck had a short to ground, when that umbilical was in place, it brought that short to the power supply module. And when the power umbilical was in place, that short to ground was now routed to the unswitched AC line. That's why both cables had to be in place for the short to chassis to appear on the AC line. But, where was the root problem? It had to be in the modulator deck.

## Looking More Closely

The pin that was grounded connected a wire to the PTT relay coil. There should have been no ground in that path ... but there was. I checked the relay coil lug and it, too, was making to ground. So I decided to remove the two screws holding the relay to the side of the chassis and look more closely at that relay. After removing the screws, the relay should have simply detached from the chassis wall. But it didn't. It was stuck fast. I slipped a thin screwdriver blade between the relay mounting slab and the chassis and applied pressure. No dice. Then I tapped lightly on the screwdriver with a small hammer, and the relay finally detached from the chassis wall.

The relay was attached to an insulating slab of phenolic. The part of the slab that pressed against the chassis wall had two countersunk holes and the heads of two screws holding the relay to the slab. These screws were at least 1/16 inch recessed from the chassis and yet one of the screws had become welded to the chassis, and, thereby, grounded the relay coil.

My solution was to cover over the two recessed screw holes with highly insulating rubber-like material and remount the relay. Once that was done, I measured the pin to ground. No short. I replaced the umbilicals and measured the AC lines to ground. No short. With the new casters in place, I remounted the three modules, reconnected the umbilicals, and plugged everything in. No hum. Problem solved.

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## CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

We have just concluded the September - October 2016 semester of CW Academy (CWA). Student signups to our popular and unique service for teaching CW continue to roll in at a record pace. We have had approximately 850 new signups since the beginning of this year and are on pace for 1,000+ signups for the calendar year.

Our CW Academy program continues to grow. Many aspiring CW operators sign up for our programs after hearing the positive results and success stories that others had experienced using our proven methods. The Academy's personal and interactive approach to teaching is unique. There are many Web sites that offer advice to aspiring CW students, but the Academy goes several steps further by placing students in a classroom setting – paddle in hand, evaluating the students' CW strengths and weaknesses in real time and then tailoring the 16 sessions in the semester to help each student build confidence and overcome CW obstacles. The student who stays the course emerges as a competent CW operator.

Our eight week Internet-based classroom instruction for Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 courses offers an opportunity to work with some of the most accomplished CW operators serving as Advisors. These advisors make themselves available to our students because they love CW and want to pass on their passion for our great hobby. What better way is there to ensure that CW continues to be heard on the bands well into the future?

As always, with an unrelenting flow of incoming applications, CW Academy needs more Advisors. Anyone who knows CW well and has a passion to help others can become an Advisor. Seize the opportunity to give something back to our great hobby and serve as an Advisor. It's not a huge time commitment. Classes are held two times a week for an 8 week period. We have three semesters a year – Jan/Feb, Apr/May, and Sep/Oct. We offer Advisor training and provide the curriculum materials that are utilized in our courses.

Below are two emails that were sent to me at the end of this semester by graduating students expressing their gratitude to the Academy and the Advisors for giving them the opportunity to be successful in learning and improving their CW skills.

**Hi Jerry, I'm Pedro, CT1DBS. I had done the level 2 just now. My Adviser was Alex, PA1FOX. I must to say that Alex was, in the true spirit of amateur radio friendship, a fantastic advisor. He takes the group to the right level with wisdom, knowledge and patience! Without any doubt, all group/class (CT1DBS, G0POT, M0RGN, OE4HDS) share these thoughts. So our class wouldn't be complete without a word of appreciation to CWOps, to CW academy, to the work of all Officers and Directors and, of course, of Alex Burlage, PA1FOX! Thank you very, very much! 73 es TNX de Pedro, CT1DBS/CU3HF**

**Hi, Jerry. I want to praise Michael Zolno, WH6YH, who was my advisor/mentor during the September-October, 2016, CWA 2 class. He has a passion for teaching, is enthusiastic and encouraging, reveals a wealth of CW information, and, frankly, has been one of the best**

teachers I have experienced in my lifetime. (I am a 64 year old practicing urologist in Illinois.) He made himself available almost constantly and his true love for CW teaching and mentoring were obvious. It was my pleasure being his student. Sincerely, Ralph Benejam, M.D., N9OAT

Please help us out so that we can continue to provide this unique service to the many aspiring CW operators out there who are looking to improve their CW skills with the CW Academy. To volunteer as an Advisor go to our web page at: <http://cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>.

*\*\*\* Please note that some of our September – October semester classes are still on-going and therefore the below results are what has been reported back to me to date.*

The CW Academy September - October 2016 semester graduated **114** CW students led by 44 Advisors and 3 Associate Advisors.

Below is a list of advisors, Associate Advisors, and student graduates from this semester:

### **September - October 2016 Semester – 44 Advisors and 3 Associate Advisors**

#### **Advisors - 2 classes**

Rob K6RB, Ed K6HP, Joe KK5NA, Alex PA1FOX, Mike WH6YH, Dallas K1DW, Jerry AC4BT

#### **Advisors – 1 class**

Matt NG7W, Kate K6HTN, Bill N7YT, Scott KF7GGN, David KM6ZT, Danny KF7Z, Paul K4JAZ, Mac NN4K, Don K6ZO, Bill K5LN, Andy WB7DKZ, Bill W0EJ, Steve ZL2KE, Barry W4LSV, James VK4TJF, Stew GW0ETF, Phil G4NVR, Dave M0GGK, Vic 4X6GP, Ron WM9Q, Joe N3HEE, Bill KC4D, Will WJ9B, Eric G0HKC, Jack NI8N, John K4AFE, Bruce K8UDH, Van N5TOO, Lar K7SV, Jim N7RCS, David W6BK, Bob WR7Q, Bruce K1BJ, Ron VE3FXX, Mark K5GQ, Doug VE3MV, Alan AD6E

#### **Associate Advisors**

Doug VE3MV, Dave W5TRX, Jim W5TUF, Bob K9FS

### **September - October 2016 Semester – Students who completed: 114 graduates**

#### **Level 1 Graduates: 59**

KK4YEL, KA0GOG, N2AJO, K9RT, KH6Y, WH6DYN, KH6DL, WH6EXE, KF5VKI, N0PIH, VE3SD, KB4WLF, KE2PB, N7BD, VA3GGB, K5SHT, K4GUF, WX4HP, KF7LU, N8KSG, W4TDV, N9CAT, AC9OH, KD8YMQ, N0RSN, N4RSN, KZ0MBI, K4JO, KK4ZC, KC1BAA, KM4EPR, N4GBR, KM4QGQ, NA4X, KK4EOU, KD0WW, KV4PN, KI7DUA, WA6ERA, WA6JL, KJ6BSB, KG7URK, AH0U, N7ZEI, VK4FR, PA3MM, PD2R, PE1JZQ, IU4DEG,

EA3HSO, OZ7MD, M0RVJ, G0MGM, PF5T, KA2KON, VE3KCY, WA2UEM, KE8ANS, KC9LVT

**Level 2 Graduates: 41**

AD5TT, KG0YL, W4PGM, AA5EJ, KP4WK, N9OAT, WB8SCT, N1ZRG, KE4RG, VA3HA, K1DBM, K9IXO, KE4D, W8GXB, VE3PVI, W4KGH, KW4JM, KD4RCW, K1SEI, KD0NPM, KI4WFJ, AC5BG, NM5G, N4TIC, AG5AW, W4YES, W5MHB, K9ZAV, WB6MCW, VE7NRD, KF7DUR, N6QX, KX6A, W7GM, AA6MK, KG7BYN, NE0N, OE4HDS, CT1DBS, M0RGN, G0POT

**Level 3 Graduates: 14**

W6TN, K0PGE, K1AQB, WX5CW, K9DRS, N7BHP, W8JPF, KA1SOL, N9SZ, K4DJG, W4ALF, AD6JV, AD0BL, WN9W

73,

*Jerry* AC4BT

CW Academy Manager

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## How We Were – W7VSE

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

### **Vic Seeberger W7VSE, CWops #1332**

Every year Sunshine Rhonda and I visit her sister in Grants Pass, Oregon. A highlight of the trip is visiting my longtime friend W7VSE in Medford. Vic is a code man's code man. He has been doing Morse since before most of us were born.

For some of Vic's story, see [http://k6jt.com/Texas\\_Net\\_Oct\\_14.pdf](http://k6jt.com/Texas_Net_Oct_14.pdf) and [http://k6jt.com/Texas\\_Net\\_Nov\\_14.pdf](http://k6jt.com/Texas_Net_Nov_14.pdf). For Vic's story about his trip to Russia for the Friendship Radio Games of 1995, see the Files section of CWops Yahoo! group home page, <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/cwops/files> and scroll down to "134\_A Trip to Russia.doc."

After World War Two, Vic worked an American Morse circuit in Medford. He worked ground-to-air CW from the Bay area. And a bunch of other places. He finally settled in Medford where he was an air traffic controller for thirty years.

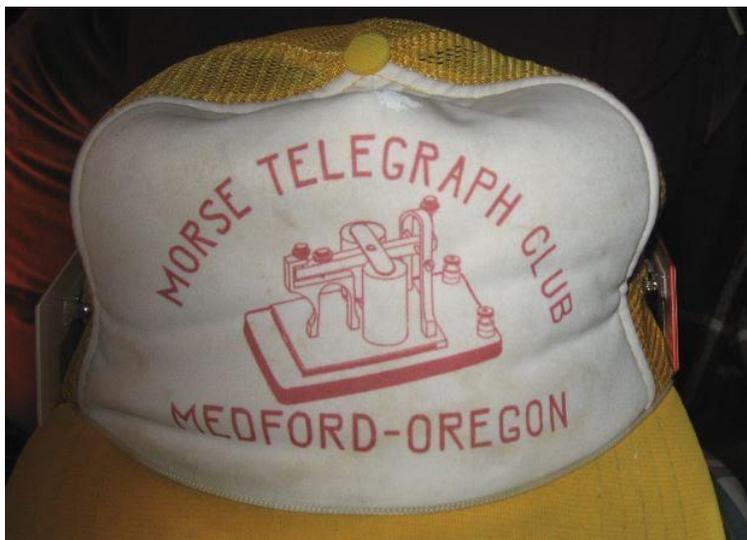
Vic was very active in the National Traffic System and still net controls RN7 Sunday nights. He has a stack of 129 Brass Pounders League cards. He has a W1NJM Connecticut Wireless Association 50 WPM certificate.

When Vic retired, his FAA colleagues gave him an electronic keyer. He used it for years, fixing it three times. It finally gave up the ghost and Vic went back to his bug. You can't tell the difference – he sounds like a code machine.

In 1995, Vic traveled to Russia for the Friendship Radio Games. See \*\*\* LINK \*\*\* for the story.

At age ninety-four Vic drives to retirement and nursing homes in the Medford area four days per week and plays country and western music. He's a big hit with the "old" folks.

Vic operates American Morse one Sunday each month at a railroad exhibit in a Medford park.



Vic is a code man's code man. Vic is my friend.

Please send YOUR *How We Were* Photos to [w6sx@arrl.net](mailto:w6sx@arrl.net)

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# CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

I am writing this while recovering from my CW Sweepstakes weekend. Sweepstakes was, as usual, an enjoyable experience. I reached my goals – a “natural” (i.e. unassisted) sweep, and a new high score for my class in my section. (It’s not a very big section, so that’s not quite as big an achievement as it might sound.) As others have noted, there were a lot of CWops members on the air – I worked 240 members, almost one-third of my total contacts. A lot of them were not CWT regulars, probably mainly weekend warriors who aren’t usually able to make the mid-week CWTs. As a result, I gave my ACA total a nice boost. Thanks to everyone who gave me a contact!

Not all of the CWT regulars were there, though, or at least there were quite a few I missed. Strange as it may seem, not everyone enjoys the Sweepstakes – it’s a bit of an acquired taste, I guess. [*or a lost one – see my column! – Ed.*] Later this month will be the big CQ WW DX contest, which has a very different feeling. You can’t work your own country for points credit, so there won’t be as many CWops-to-CWops contacts among our US members, but this will be a chance to work some DX members and improve your DX, WAE and WAZ totals.

Joe KC0VKZ has fixed the glitch that affected the CWT score pages and the toplist standings as a result of minor changes to the format of postings on the 3830 reflector. Thanks, Joe! A reminder: while the CWT scores pages and toplist are very convenient ways of keeping track of your CWT progress, they are not the official counts. The official counts are based directly on the score summaries at [3830scores.com](#).

As of the end of October, we now have 18 members who have already reached the gold medal participation level, 46 more who are assured of at least a silver medal, and another 50 already at the bronze medal level. By the end of the year, I expect we will have 38 gold, 42 silver and 53 bronze (plus or minus – these are extrapolations). N5PHT still has a perfect attendance record, with UR5MM and N4FP one behind.

There was a bit of discussion recently on the frequencies people use in the CWTs. We have suggested .028-.038 on most bands (it’s a bit lower on 160m), but that’s only a suggestion to help newcomers find where the action is. With over 120 people taking part on average, and with propagation conditions such that most of the action is concentrated in one or two bands, 10 kHz is not likely going to be sufficient to meet the demand for slots to run on, and some spreading out in frequency is inevitable. The key point is to listen before calling CQ and not step on other QSOs already in progress.

By the time you read this, we will have finished the third slow-speed set of CWTs this year in honor of new CW Academy graduates. I have been working quite a few people who are sending CWA as their exchange in the regular CWTs, which is an indication of the success of the CW Academy program at bringing new blood into the CW fraternity – not just in the CWTs, of course, but also into other aspects of CW.

Till next time, let’s all keep on having fun in the CWTs.

73,

*Rich*, VE3KI

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## CWops Member Awards

[Pete W1RM](#) and [Peter W1UU](#)

*The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.*

In the table below, members whose call sign is in **RED** have achieved a milestone: 100 DX entities, 40 WAE entities, 50 states (WAS). Members who wish to track their totals for these awards can use the CAM software developed by N5RR. It's available at no cost here: <http://www.bbcyber.com/cam/>.

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	804	5841	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>48</b>	W1RM	38
W1RM	761	4406	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>44</b>	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	675	3957	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>43</b>	W4VQ	37
F6HKA	629	4185	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>43</b>	G4BUE	37
N8BJQ	628	4124	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>W1UU</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>42</b>	N5RR	36
N5RR	593	4068	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>OK1RR</b>	<b>42</b>	VE3KI	35
K1ESE	515	2388	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>42</b>	IK0YVV	32
G4BUE	498	3184	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>41</b>	N5PHT	29
K6RB	456	3403	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>W0EJ</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>41</b>	VK7CW	28
IT9MUO	448	1353	K1ESE	98	<b>F6JOE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>40</b>	JF2IWL	25
N5PHT	437	1839	SM6CNN	93	<b>W6KY</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>AA3B</b>	<b>40</b>	W6NS	19
K5AX	423	1927	OK1RR	93	<b>N1EN</b>	<b>50</b>	SM6CNN	37		
NN4K	387	983	AA3B	93	<b>N5PHT</b>	<b>50</b>	F6JOE	36		
IT9VDQ	380	934	EA1WX	89	<b>F5MNK</b>	<b>50</b>	W1UU	34		
NA6O	379	1465	W0VX	88	<b>K5IX</b>	<b>50</b>	W0VX	34		
W4VQ	358	2413	N1EN	86	<b>K3SEN</b>	<b>50</b>	KZ5D	34		
W1UU	347	2042	F6JOE	81	<b>AD1C</b>	<b>50</b>	KR3E	34		
W9ILY	326	2639	AD1C	81	<b>AB7MP</b>	<b>50</b>	K1ESE	34		
W0VX	325	2633	IT9MUO	80	W9ILY	49	IT9MUO	34		
K3SEN	319	955	PA7RA	79	W0VX	49	IT9VDQ	33		
DL8PG	298	1709	KZ5D	78	VK7CW	49	W9ILY	32		
W6NS	292	1090	DL8PG	77	N8BJQ	49	N1EN	32		
K6DGW	291	1620	W1UU	75	K6RB	49	F5MNK	32		
VK7CW	277	1058	KR3E	73	K6DGW	49	EA1WX	32		

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
W6KY	271	1966	N1ZX	70	K5AX	49	PA7RA	31		
F6JOE	265	2545	K5AX	70	K1ESE	49	DL8PG	31		
K3WJV	238	882	F5MNK	68	GW0ETF	49	IK0YVV	30		
EA8OM	235	2758	NN6T	67	AA3B	49	NN6T	29		
NU7Y	232	479	GW0ETF	67	WB9G	48	N1ZX	28		
W5ASP	231	1018	N5PHT	66	W6NS	48	K5AX	28		
I5EFO	228	318	VK7CW	65	SM6CNN	48	GW0ETF	28		
G4DRS	214	496	IT9VDQ	62	NN6T	48	AD1C	28		
AD1C	209	1919	W9ILY	57	NA6O	48	JF2IWL	25		
N1EN	200	1928	IK0YVV	57	N1ZX	48	G4DRS	24		
K5IX	200	630	W6KY	55	KZ5D	48	K6RB	23		
N1DC	199	698	K6RB	54	KT5V	48	HB9ARF	23		
G4NVR	184	251	JF2IWL	50	IK0YVV	48	VK7CW	22		
JF2IWL	147	909	4Z1UF	50	DL8PG	48	I5EFO	22		
K2ZC	112	767	G4DRS	49	NU7Y	47	4Z1UF	21		
4X6GP	109	975	WB9G	48	KR3E	47	N5PHT	20		
AB7MP	86	617	NA6O	48	JF2IWL	47	K2ZC	20		
G4HZV	85	99	HB9ARF	41	IT9VDQ	47	WB9G	19		
KZ5D	0	3239	K3SEN	39	WX7SJ	46	G4NVR	19		
SM6CNN	0	2477	W6NS	38	NN4K	46	G3YJQ	18		
N2UU	0	1774	K6DGW	38	KG5U	46	W6KY	17		
EA1WX	0	1655	I5EFO	38	K0DTJ	46	NN4K	17		
OK1RR	0	1618	K2ZC	37	IT9MUO	46	NA6O	17		
NN6T	0	1577	W0EJ	36	G4DRS	46	N1DC	17		
GW0ETF	0	1451	KG5U	35	EA1WX	46	KG5U	17		
KG5U	0	1322	NN4K	33	N1DC	45	K3WJV	16		
PA7RA	0	1200	KT5V	32	K3WJV	45	K3SEN	16		
KR3E	0	1136	N1DC	28	K2ZC	45	W6NS	12		
F5MNK	0	1111	G4NVR	27	PA7RA	44	K6DGW	12		
PA4N	0	955	G3YJQ	27	OK1RR	44	KT5V	11		
N1ZX	0	940	K3WJV	25	KM4FO	43	W0EJ	10		
WB9G	0	888	K0DTJ	25	HB9ARF	43	G3XLG	10		
KT5V	0	814	NU7Y	21	OH2BN	42	W5TM	7		
IK0YVV	0	767	AB7MP	21	I5EFO	40	G0DJA	7		
W0EJ	0	754	K5IX	20	NV9X	38	K5IX	6		
HB9ARF	0	723	G3XLG	18	G3YJQ	37	K0DTJ	6		
K0DTJ	0	668	WT2P	14	4Z1UF	36	AB7MP	6		
WX7SJ	0	610	W5TM	11	WT2P	34	KM4FO	5		
WT2P	0	574	KM4FO	10	G4NVR	34	WT2P	4		
OH2BN	0	530	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32	NV9X	1		
KM4FO	0	500	NV9X	4	G3XLG	31				
N7WY	0	403	KE6K	4	KE6K	17				
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8				
G3YJQ	0	234								

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
G3XLG	0	201												
NV9X	0	149												
KE6K	0	116												
G0DJA	0	23												
PA1FOX	0	5												

73,

*Pete* W1RM

CWopsCAMScores@comcast.net

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## New Members

### [Colin Jenkins KU5B](#)

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWops:

1692 W7QC Steve  
1693 DJ8EF Feri  
1694 K8AJS John  
1695 W4ALF Chris  
1696 W4NBS Tom  
1697 K5WNU Jack  
1698 KA9P Scott  
1699 W3UL Bill  
1700 W4SIG\* Kerry  
1701 VE3ABN\* Les  
1702 WA4JUK Joe  
1703 VE1AOE Don  
1704 AD0BL Tom  
1705 K8QKY Steve  
1706 K8ZZ Ed  
1707 W6TN\* Trung  
1708 K1AQB\* Bill  
1709 WB8SCT\* Jack  
1710 K1SEC\* Paul  
1711 K4YFH Jimmy

\* = Life Member

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## Current Nominees

As of November 9, 2016:

**Need Sponsors:** N3AAK, KB4RGC, K5HP, N9SZ

**Invitations Extended:** TZ4AM, VK5EEE, K0HX, SM1TDE, W5BOS, WC4E

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” pages on the Website: [www.CWops.org](http://www.CWops.org).

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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## QTX Report

### Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

by [John Huffman K1ESE](#)

*QTX is a way of counting conversational CW QSOs. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - the QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.*

Here's the latest tally of CW conversations of 20 minutes or longer. Remember, you can work anyone, anywhere, as many times as you like. They all count for QTX.

### QTX Monthly Standings

Below find the October QTX reports received:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
N5PHT	137
K5KV	63
K5YQF	55
N5IR	46
KI4XH	40
K1ESE	34
KCOVKN	27
K4AHO	22
KB6NU	22

K6HP	21
NN6T	19
K6RB	15
HB9CVQ	10
I5EFO	8
K0DTJ	7
K6DGW	7
W3WHK	5
K3TN	5
W5JQ	3
NN4K	2
N5LB	2
K8UDH	1

Gary N5PHT had another amazing month. He's making good use of all that time on the road. Benny K5KV takes second again this month and Clyde K5YQF popped up into third.

We had 22 stations reporting, up a big eight stations. I appreciate the additional reports. Thanks! QSOs were up 66 from September.

Personal bests for the year were submitted by KC0VKN, K6HP, and K6DGW (new paddle).

### QTX Medal Standings

We award QTX medals for the following totals at the end of the year -

- Gold Medal - 400 QTX points
- Silver Medal - 300 QTX points
- Bronze Medal - 200 QTX points

It will be fun to see if you can accumulate the contacts needed to reach each level.

### QTX Year to Date

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5PHT	680
K5KV	602
KI4XH	537
K1ESE	508
N5IR	498
K5YQF	422
K4AHO	249
AC4BT	240
KB6NU	221

NN6T	180
KCOVKN	150
K6RB	137
K6HP	132
HB9CVQ	90
W3WHK	83
I5EFO	54
NN4K	47
KE6OIO	47
N1ZX	39
WA8IWK	31
N9SE	27
K0DTJ	22
K3TN	17
WC5W	17
K6DGW	15
K8UDH	11
W5JQ	10
N5LB	2
AB7MP	2

Gary N5PHT is extending his lead this month. With just two months left he will be hard to catch. Benny K5KV holds on to second and is always near the top, month after month. Fred KI4XH is the third station at well over 500 QSOs for the year.

So far the Gold Medal lineup is: K5KV, KI4XH, K1ESE, N5PHT, N5IR, and K5YQF. Congratulations guys!

Here's who has qualified for the other medals:

Silver - No one here, but three have time to get there.

Bronze - AC4BT, K4AHO, and KB6NU.

The year is running out and the next two months are the time for a final medal push.

Good luck!

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

**John K1ESE**, CWops #792, *QTX Manager*

*QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW*

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# Upcoming CW Operating Events

by [Joe Staples W5ASP](#)

*This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities.*

Although this may be history by the time this issue of Solid Copy hits the news stands it's worth repeating ... just in case. "Few, if any dedicated CW operators need to be reminded that the first weekend in November hosts the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest. If the code is your thing, you've got to be involved in one way or another. For those who are not as intense in maximizing their score there are other options such as securing a "Clean Sweep," or logging a targeted number of Qs in a preset time interval. A little creative thought will suggest other paths to utilize your CW skills."

The other one of the two most significant CW contests of the year, the CQWW CW affair, takes place on the final weekend of November. If you'd like a few ideas on some of the different ways to play in this event, go to the CWOps website and look at this column in the November 2014 issue. It has some suggestions that might amuse you, if you choose not to go full out.

Two of the really fun ARRL-sponsored single band contests are set for the the first part of December. The 160 Meter event has long been a favorite of the "top band gang" and is a real test of gear and propagation. The Ten Meter contest can be either a blast or a dud ... just depends on the "ions." With the sunspot cycle pretty much "over-the-hill," this year may herald a long term downswing in conditions. Check the propagation gurus, and throw some "fu-fu dust" up towards Old Sol. One thing to keep in mind about the 10 M affair is that even in the absence of decent propagation, the onset of Sporadic-E can bring about wonders. Dozens of stations have worked on a "dead" band by swinging the beam and calling ... and calling ... and calling again through 360 deg. Take the Qs any way you can get 'em.

The High Speed Club's CW contest and the "Homebrew/Oldtime" gear event have been covered in earlier articles. They are pretty much "what you see is what you get" affairs.

Notice that the final state QSO party (Kentucky) is set for mid-November. It will be the last such event for this year. You'll have to wait until 2017 for the next one (Montana in January).

This year the RAC Winter contest will take place the weekend before Christmas. It marks the end of the year's scheduled operating events for many of us. As with the other Canadian contests, the activity will be open to any and all who chose to join in.

## **NOVEMBER / DECEMBER EVENTS**

**ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW**  
<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

**2100Z, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> to 0300Z, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>**

High Speed Club CW Contest <a href="http://www.highspeedclub.org/">http://www.highspeedclub.org/</a>	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>
Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party <a href="http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html">http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html</a>	1300-1500Z, Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> (80m)
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW <a href="http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</a>	0000Z, Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>
ARRL 160-Meter Contest <a href="http://www.arrl.org/160-meter">http://www.arrl.org/160-meter</a>	2200Z, Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 1600Z, Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>
ARRL 10-Meter Contest <a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-meter">http://www.arrl.org/10-meter</a>	0000Z, Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>
RAC Winter Contest <a href="http://wp.rac.ca/">http://wp.rac.ca/</a>	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>
Kentucky QSO Party <a href="http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=45:wkdx&amp;catid=1:latest-news&amp;Itemid">http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=45:wkdx&amp;catid=1:latest-news&amp;Itemid</a>	1400Z, Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint <a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html">http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html</a>	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon SKCC Sprint SKCC Weekend Sprintathon <a href="http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/">http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/</a>	1200Z, Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> 0000Z-0200Z, Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1200Z, Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>
NAQCC CW Sprint NAQCC CW Sprint <a href="http://www.naqcc.info/">www.naqcc.info/</a>	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 17 <sup>th</sup> 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>

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